

IN THE CLAIMS:

The text of all pending claims, (including withdrawn claims) is set forth below. Cancelled and not entered claims are indicated with claim number and status only. The claims as listed below show added text with underlining and deleted text with ~~strikethrough~~. The status of each claim is indicated with one of (original), (currently amended), (cancelled), (withdrawn), (new), (previously presented), or (not entered).

Please AMEND claims the and ADD new claim 15 in accordance with the following:

1. (Currently Amended) An accounting system, comprising:
 - a part reporting registration certification to an accounting server from a terminal device, when contents to be charged for are accessed in the terminal device and which is previously registered in said accounting server;
 - a part confirming propriety of the reported registration certification in said accounting server, and performing fee charging; and
 - a part, when the propriety of the registration certification is confirmed, reporting permission of access to the contents, from said accounting server to said terminal device, and making the contents accessible in said terminal device, wherein
 - when access is made to the contents, a license file in the terminal device is referred to, and, when the license file is determined to be valid, access to the contents is continued without accessing the accounting server, and
 - when the license file is not determined to be valid and a user at the terminal device agrees to update the license file, access to the accounting server is carried out based on the registration certification, notification of charging is made to the accounting server and, after the completion of the charging, access to the contents is continued and a new license file received from the accounting server is installed independent from said access to the contents.
2. (Currently Amended) An accounting method, comprising:
 - reporting, via a computer, registration certification to an accounting server from a terminal device when contents to be charged for are accessed in the terminal device and which is previously registered in said accounting server;
 - confirming propriety of the reported registration certification in said accounting server, and performing fee charging; and

when the propriety of the registration certification is confirmed, reporting permission of access to the contents, from said accounting server to said terminal device, and making the contents accessible in said terminal device, wherein

when access is made to the contents, a license file in the terminal device is referred to, and, when the license file is determined to be valid, access to the contents is continued without accessing the accounting server, and

when the license file is not determined to be valid and a user at the terminal device agrees to update the license file, access to the accounting server is carried out based on the registration certification, notification of charging is made to the accounting server and, after the completion of the charging, access to the contents is continued and a new license file received from the accounting server is installed independent from said access to the contents.

3. (Currently Amended) An accounting method, comprising:

attempting to access contents, from a terminal device, and determining, via a computer, whether or not a condition for accessing the contents is satisfied; and

enabling access to the contents when the condition for accessing the contents is satisfied, and enabling access to the contents after performing fee charging when the condition for accessing the contents is not satisfied, wherein

when access is made to the contents, a license file in the terminal device is referred to, and, when the license file is determined to be valid, access to the contents is continued without accessing the accounting server, and

when the license file is not determined to be valid and a user at the terminal device agrees to update the license file, access to the accounting server is carried out based on the registration certification, notification of charging is made to the accounting server and, after the completion of the charging, access to the contents is continued and a new license file received from the accounting server is installed independent from said access to the contents.

4. (Currently Amended) An accounting method, comprising:

determining, via a computer, whether or not a condition for accessing contents from a terminal device is satisfied;

reporting fee charging to an accounting server when the condition for accessing the contents is not satisfied; and

updating from said accounting server the condition for accessing the contents into a condition such that the contents can be accessed, wherein,;

when access is made to the contents, a license file in the terminal device is referred to, and, when the license file is determined to be valid, access to the contents is continued without accessing the accounting server, and

when the license file is not determined to be valid and a user at the terminal device agrees to update the license file, access to the accounting server is carried out based on the registration certification, notification of charging is made to the accounting server and, after the completion of the charging, access to the contents is continued and a new license file received from the accounting server is installed independent from said access to the contents.

5. (Currently Amended) An accounting method, comprising:

receiving, via a computer, a certificate previously issued for registration information of a terminal device, and determining whether or not the certificate is valid;

transmitting the determination result to said terminal device, generating information indicating that a condition for accessing contents is satisfied when the determination result is that the certificate is valid, and transmitting the generated information to said terminal device; and

charging for accessing the contents, wherein

when access is made to the contents, a license file in the terminal device is referred to, and, when the license file is determined to be valid, access to the contents is continued without accessing the accounting server, and

when the license file is not determined to be valid and a user at the terminal device agrees to update the license file, access to the accounting server is carried out based on the registration certification, notification of charging is made to the accounting server and, after the completion of the charging, access to the contents is continued and a new license file received from the accounting server is installed independent from said access to the contents.

6. (Currently Amended) A content executing device, comprising:

a determining part attempting to access contents and determining whether or not a condition for accessing the contents from a terminal device is satisfied; and

an access control part enabling the access to the contents when the condition for accessing the contents is satisfied as a result of the determination by said determining part, and enabling the access to the contents after performing fee charging when the condition for accessing the contents is not satisfied, wherein

when access is made to the contents, a license file in the terminal device is referred to,

and, when a license file shows validity, access to the contents is continued without accessing the accounting server, and

when the license file does not show validity and a user at the terminal device agrees to update the license file, access to the accounting server is carried out based on the registration certification, notification of charging is made to the accounting server and, after the completion of the charging, access to the contents is continued and a new license file received from the accounting server is installed independent from said access to the contents.

7. (Currently Amended) An accounting monitoring device, comprising:

a determining part determining whether or not a condition for accessing contents from a terminal device is satisfied;

an accounting reporting part reporting fee charging to an accounting server when the condition for accessing the contents is not satisfied as a result of the determination result of said determining part; and

a updating part updating, by a condition for accessing the contents, provided from said accounting server, the condition for accessing the contents so that the contents can be accessed, wherein

when access is made to the contents, a license file in the terminal device is referred to, and, when the license file is determined to be valid, access to the contents is continued without accessing the accounting server, and

when the license file is not determined to be valid and a user at the terminal device agrees to update the license file, access to the accounting server is carried out based on the registration certification, notification of charging is made to the accounting server and, after the completion of the charging, access to the contents is continued and a new license file received from the accounting server is installed independent from said access to the contents.

8. (Previously Presented) The accounting monitoring device as claimed in claim 7, wherein said determining part, accounting reporting part and updating part are achieved on an operating system of a terminal device.

9. (Currently Amended) An accounting control device, comprising:

a certificate determining part receiving a certificate previously issued for registration information of a terminal device, and determining whether or not the certificate is valid;

an information updating part transmitting the determination result from said certificate

determining part to said terminal device, generating information indicating that a condition for accessing contents is satisfied when the determination result is that the certificate is valid, and transmitting the generated information to said terminal device; and

an accounting part charging for accessing the contents, wherein

when access is made to the contents, a license file in the terminal device is referred to, and, when the license file is determined to be valid, access to the contents is continued without accessing the accounting server, and

when the license file is not determined to be valid and a user at the terminal device agrees to update the license file, access to the accounting server is carried out based on the registration certification, notification of charging is made to the accounting server and, after the completion of the charging, access to the contents is continued and a new license file received from the accounting server is installed independent from said access to the contents.

10. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable recording medium storing therein a program controlling a computer to perform processing, comprising:

attempting to access contents and determining whether or not a condition for accessing the contents from a terminal device is satisfied; and

enabling the access to the contents when the condition for accessing the contents is satisfied as a result of the determination made of the determining, and enabling the access to the contents after performing fee charging when the condition for accessing the contents is not satisfied, wherein

when access is made to the contents, a license file in the terminal device is referred to, and, when the license file is determined to be valid, access to the contents is continued without accessing the accounting server, and

when the license file is not determined to be valid and a user at the terminal device agrees to update the license file, access to the accounting server is carried out based on the registration certification, notification of charging is made to the accounting server and, after the completion of the charging, access to the contents is continued and a new license file received from the accounting server is installed independent from said access to the contents.

11. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable recording medium storing therein a program controlling a computer to perform processing, comprising:

determining whether or not a condition for accessing contents from a terminal device is satisfied;

reporting fee charging to an accounting server when the condition for accessing the contents is not satisfied as a result of the determination of said determining; and

updating, by a condition for accessing the contents, provided from said accounting server, the condition for accessing the contents so that the contents can be accessed, wherein when access is made to the contents, a license file in the terminal device is referred to, and, when the license file is determined to be valid, access to the contents is continued without accessing the accounting server, and

when the license file is not determined to be valid and a user at the terminal device agrees to update the license file, access to the accounting server is carried out based on the registration certification, notification of charging is made to the accounting server and, after the completion of the charging, access to the contents is continued and a new license file received from the accounting server is installed independent from said access to the contents.

12. (Previously Presented) The recording medium as claimed in claim 11, wherein said determining, reporting and updating are executed on an operating system of said computer.

13. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable recording medium storing therein a program controlling a computer to confirm propriety of a reported registration certificate, by:

receiving a certificate previously issued for registration information of a terminal device, and determining whether or not the certificate is valid;

transmitting the determination result of the determining to said terminal device, generating information indicating that a condition for accessing contents is satisfied when the determination result is that the certificate is valid, and transmitting the generated information to said terminal device; and

charging for accessing the contents, wherein

when access is made to the contents, a license file in the terminal device is referred to, and, when the license file is determined to be valid, access to the contents is continued without accessing the accounting server, and

when the license file is not determined to be valid and a user at the terminal device agrees to update the license file, access to the accounting server is carried out based on the registration certification, notification of charging is made to the accounting server and, after the completion of the charging, access to the contents is continued and a new license file received from the accounting server is installed independent from said access to the contents.

14. (Currently Amended) An accounting apparatus, comprising:

means for reporting registration certification to an accounting server from a terminal device, when contents to be charged for are accessed in the terminal device and which is previously registered in said accounting server;

means for confirming propriety of the reported registration certification in said accounting server, and for performing fee charging; and

means for, when the propriety of the registration certification is confirmed, reporting permission of access to the contents, from said accounting server to said terminal device, and for making the contents accessible in said terminal device, wherein

when access is made to the contents, a license file in the terminal device is referred to, and, when the license file is determined to be valid, access to the contents is continued without accessing the accounting server; and

when the license file is not determined to be valid and a user at the terminal device agrees to update the license file, access to the accounting server is carried out based on the registration certification, notification of charging is made to the accounting server and, after the completion of the charging, a new license file received from the accounting server is installed independent from said access to the contents.

15. (New) An apparatus comprising:

a computer readable medium storing an executable program and a license controlling access to said executable program; and

a controller executing license monitoring operations independent of said executable program, comprising:

registering a user and said executable program with an accounting server,
confirming if said license is valid when said user executes said executable program,

when said license is valid, accessing to the executable program is continued without accessing the accounting server, and

when said license file is invalid, determining if said user agrees to update said license file, accessing said accounting server and charging said user for a new license based upon said registration, and installing a new license file received from said accounting server in said storage.